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TREE PEONIES

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MARINUS VANDER POL
Tree Peony Specialist

Fairhaven, Massachusetts
U.S.A.

Dear Friends:

Many fine American Gardens have missed two of the most exotic garden jewels for too long — the Tree Peony and the Christmas Rose.

I want to introduce these plants to you. The Tree Peony is perhaps somewhat slow to establish and develop into a large lush growing plant, however those that are properly planted in the right place soon become the "Kings of the Garden" and are an **excellent investment** which will thrill garden enthusiasts with their magnificent blooms for many years.

During the past several years I have visited more than 60 of Japan's finest Tree Peony nurseries. I have also had an excellent opportunity to visit with the Buddhist Monks and have been personally escorted by them through the sanctum sanctorum of their temple gardens.

My travels have enabled me to select from the finest and my collection is presented to you for your consideration.

On the following pages I have noted some facts about these Garden Jewels. I hope you will enjoy this presentation and will try these plants in your Garden.

Sincerely yours,

Marinus van der Pol

MARINUS VANDER POL



Massachusetts Horticultural Society
Award for Informal Garden
1947 • 1957 • 1958



Federation of Rhode Island
Garden Clubs Award for
Informal Garden 1939



THE TREE PEONY

The Tree Peony is truly the aristocrat of the garden and justly so. Its unusual beauty lends distinction and charm to any garden. The colors of the Tree Peony are different from those of the regular herbaceous peony. Not only do they possess the finest shades of pink, red and white, but there are varieties which develop exotic flowers of pure yellow, yellow and orange, lavenders, violets and purples. To add to their many splendors they are pleasingly perfumed to delight the most delicate of senses.

Unlike ordinary peonies the Tree Peony does not die back to the ground but continues to grow larger and higher each year. On my most recent trip to Japan I saw several plants which exceeded six feet in height and eight feet in diameter. These plants were capable of producing well over 200 blossoms.

Its known history dates back before the Chinese author, Hung King (536), who writes about its medicinal values and its ornamental uses. Early European explorers reported that the Tree Peony was native to Central China in the Canton regions. However, Robert Fortune on his trip to China in 1846 discovered that the plant did not grow wild at Canton, but, in fact, was grown in the mountain

regions of the north and carried in open baskets 1000 miles by boat to the markets. At Canton, Tree Peonies were potted and the warmth of the climate started them to fulfill their mission as ornamentals for the halls, balconies and gardens of the wealthy Cantonese. Their value was determined by the number of blooms with choice varieties selling for "100 ounces of Gold".

This seems like a high price to pay for a potted plant, but when first introduced to European gardens in 1789 Tree Peonies were sold for as much as 100 louis d'or (\$460.00) each.

The movement of Tree Peonies to Japan may be traced through the travels of the Buddhist Monks. During their travels through China and Korea 1500 years ago they discovered apples, cherries, quince and many other ornamentals which they brought with them to Japan to adorn their temple gardens. The Tree Peony was among the highly prized plants which went to Japan with them and the attentiveness of the monks to its culture has added to the belief in its religious significance. Today the Tree Peony is still one of the most revered plants in Japan and its flowers and form have been memorialized in the art of the country.



The Parasol Garden
To extend the life of the bloom,
parasols are placed over them
to shade them from the hot sun.

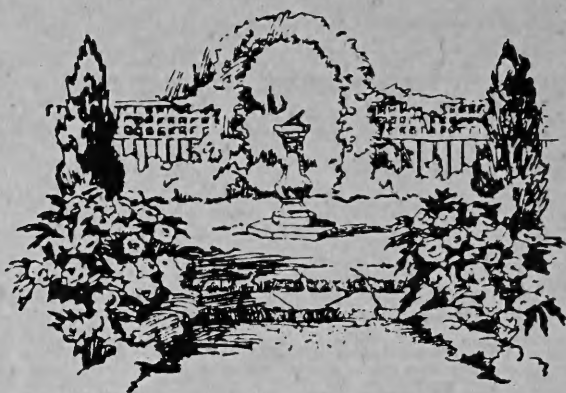


The Tree Peony was first introduced to America in the early 19th century from English Gardens. Although it enjoyed the admiration of all, its popularity was retarded because the skills and patience which were needed for successful propagation were not readily available to nurserymen at that time. Furthermore, the slow growth of these early plants necessitated a high price thereby putting them out of the reach of all but the very rich.

Today, however, techniques and propagating methods have advanced to such a degree that these exotic plants are within the reach of most serious gardeners. Hybridizers have also contributed to the wonders of the plant by developing fully double goblet-shaped flowers with petals that have the rich sheen of Oriental silks with rare and exciting colors for your garden.

Where To Use The Tree Peony

These plants can be used in a variety of locations; as a focal point in a design, accents to the entrance of your home, massive plantings in beds or with sizable screens of evergreens, lilacs or Ivy covered walls. Your imagination can produce many attractive and interesting pictures in your garden. In New England, the Tree Peony is used to great advantage with a large assortment of evergreen shrubs and hillside plantings, where it adds color and character not obtainable with any other plant.



Care and Hardiness

The Tree Peonies are very hardy and northern nurseries have grown them for many years without any winter kill. In fact, they need some winter weather in order to give them a rest. They do best in those areas north of the Southern states including Georgia. A rich sandy loam, which is well drained gives the best results. Like so many other plants, the Tree Peony does not like its feet to stay wet.

The Tree Peony does not require much attention to do well, however, I suggest that annually, well-decayed cow-manure and/or bonemeal be worked into the ground in the Fall. The Tree Peony is not subject to any insect injury, however, in some locations and during rainy periods, they may be subjected to Boytrytis Blight; when it appears, remove the wilted branches. The plant usually replaces these branches in a matter of weeks. To prevent Boytrytis, spray once before the blossoms open and once or twice afterwards. Use Bordeaux, Fermate or its equivalent, and cover foliage and branches.

Companion Plants

An excellent combination and companion is the Helleborus Niger (Christmas Rose) both in the red and white forms. A massive planting of Tree Peonies with a low planting of Helleborus provides a year round effect with two flowering seasons. The Helleborus is evergreen, appreciates shade in summer, and full light in winter. Its flowers appear from late fall through to May, when the Tree Peony takes over for the summer. Foliage of both plants is very similar in appearance.

THE MARVELOUS AND NOVEL HYBRID LUTEA TREE PEONIES

2 year old

All Plants Shipped Postpaid

\$7.50 each 3 for \$21.00 6 for \$40.00

ALICE HARDING, Double ball-shaped yellow, magnificent fragrance.

CHROMATELLA, Pure sulphur yellow, large double, fragrant.

FLAMBEAU, Full double flower of bright salmon red with amaranth veins passing to a paler shade.

FLORA, One of the most enchantingly beautiful flowers, pure transparent white, slightly blotched violet-carmine in the throat. Immense flowers of marvelous form.

LALORRAINE, The flowers are large and well formed, petals nearly imbricated, being soft sulphur yellow with salmon tinge when opening — become lighter and purer when expanded, very free blooming.

SATIN ROUGE, Double blood-orange flowers, a new color in Tree Peonies, vigorous growth — bright green foliage.

SOUVENIR DE MAXIME CORNU, Forms a plant 3 to 4 feet high which produces many beautiful shaped full double flowers of a deep yellow heavily shaded orange salmon, Fragrant.



JAPANESE TREE PEONIES

3 year old

All Plants Shipped Postpaid

\$12.00 each 3 for \$33.00 6 for \$60.00

AKASHI-GATA, (Akashi Beach), Gorgeous peach pink, yellow center.

BENI-CHIDORI, (Red Feather Stitch), Pink, bottom deeper carmine, double.

FUSO-NO-TSUKASA, (God of Japan), White, full double, globular, very large.

GODAISHU, (Large Globe-like), Pure white, nearly full double, large.

HAKUJIN, Pure white, full double.

HAKUO-JISHI, (White Tailed Lion), Pure white, full double.

HANA-DAIGIN, (Minister of Flowers), Exquisite, lustrous purple, large full double.

HARU-NO-AKEBONO, (Spring Dawn), White shading light pink, double.

HATSU-HINODE, (Rising Sun of the New Year), Pure carmine, double, large.

HODAI, (Reign of Chinese Emperor), Vivid crimson, nearly full double.

JITSU-GETSU-NISHIKI, (Finest Brocade), Purplish red, white tipped, nearly full double.

KAMADA-NISHIKI, (Kamada Brocade), Lilac purple, white striped, full double large.

RIMPO, (Bird of Rimpo), Deep Purple, full double, large.

RENKAKU, (Flight of Cranes), Immense pure white double, yellow center.

SETSU-GEKKA, (White Moonflower) Glistening white, enormous double, crinkled petals.

SUISHO-KAKU, (Clear Crystal White), Exquisite semi-double snow-white beauty, petals incurved.

SUIGAN, (Intoxicating Face), Light pink, bottom deeper red, nearly full double.
 TAMA-FUYO, (Jewelled Lotus), Light pink, cup-shaped, nearly full double.
 TAMA-MIDORI, (Green Jade), Scarlet, semi-double, brilliant, overlapping petals.
 YACHIYO-TSUBAKI, (Long Hedge of Camellias), Pink, nearly full double.
 YAE-ZAKURA, (Very Double Cherry), Cerise, double, large.



JAPANESE TREE PEONIES

2 year old

All Plants Shipped Postpaid

\$6.50 each 3 for \$18.00 7 for \$40.00

AKASHI-GATA, (Akashi Beach), Gorgeous peach pink, yellow center.
 BENI-CHIDORI, (Red Feather Stitch), Pink, bottom deeper carmine, double.
 BENI-NO-TSUKASA, (Scarlet Leader), Rare, watermelon-pink, full double.
 CHORAKU, (Forever Happy), Exquisite shell-pink; double, large.
 COMTESSE DE TUDOR, Double, salmon rose.
 FUSA-NO-TSUKASA, (God of Japan), White, full double, globular, very large.
 GABISAN, (Mountain of the Arched Eyebrow), Very popular large white double.
 GESSEKAI, (Kingdom of the Moon), Glistening white crinkled petals, double.
 GODAISHU (Large Globe-like), Pure white, nearly full double, large.
 HAKU-BANRIU, (Many White Dragons), White, full double, enormous, vigorous.
 HAKUO-JISHI, (White tailed Lion), Pure white, full double.
 HANA-DAIGIN, (Minister of Flowers), Exquisite, lustrous purple, double.
 HANA-KISOI, (Floral Rivalry), Deep cherry-pink, sensational beauty, double.
 HARU-NO-AKEBONO, (Spring Dawn), White shading light pink, double.
 HATSU-GARASHU, (First Crow of the Year), Glowing dark red, nearly full double, large.
 HATSU-HINODE, (Rising Sun of the New Year), Pure carmine, double, large.
 HIGURASHI, (Twilight), Vivid crimson, semi-double.
 HINODE-SEKAI, (World of the Rising Sun), Brilliant rosy red, magnificent, double.
 HODAI, (Reign of Chinese Emperor), Vivid crimson, nearly full double.
 HOWZAN, (Treasure Mountain), Brilliant light pink, beautiful twisted petals, double.
 IMA SHOJO, (New Orange Qutang), Brilliant rosy red, immense, double.
 JITSU-GETSU-NISHIKI, (Finest Brocade), Purplish red, white tipped, nearly full double.
 KAGURA-JISHI, (Sacred Lion Dance), Exquisite rich pink, rose-red center, double.
 KAMADA-NISHIKI, (Kamada Brocade), Lilac purple, white striped, full, double.
 KIRIN-TSUKASA, (Great Leader), Carmine, bottom deeper colored, nearly full double.
 KONRON-KOKU, (Land of Konron), Velvety maroon, semi-double.
 KUMA-GAYA, (Name of Castle), Deep pink turning Magenta, full double fragrant beauty.

MME. STUART LOW, Salmon-red, double.

MOMOYAMA, (Mountain of Peach Orchard), Brilliant flesh-pink, full double, large.

NISHIKI-NO-TSUYA, (Beauty of Brocade), Scarlet-crimson base, carmine double, large.

NISSHO, (Sunbeam), Glistening scarlet, enormous double. Highly recommended.

OKINA-JISHI, (Aged Lion), Pure white, full double. Irregularly cut petals.

RENKAKU, (Flight of Cranes), Immense pure white double, yellow center.

REINE ELIZABETH, Bright Pink, double. Probably the finest of all salmon-rose double tree peonies. Large, perfectly shaped flower of a brilliant salmon rose, one of the richest shades in flowers.

SAKURA-JISHI, (Lion in Cherry Orchard), Pink, full double, irregularly cut.

SHIN-KAGURA, (New Sacred Music), Carmine, full double, globular mammoth.

SUIGAN, (Intoxicating Face), Light pink, bottom deeper red, nearly full double.

TAISHO-NO-HIKARI, (Honor of Taisho Dynasty), Big crimson-scarlet cut-shaped, double.

TAISHO-NO-HOKARI, (Pride of Taisho Dynasty), Immense deep purple of great beauty.

TAIYO, (Great Emperor), Bright red, enormous, satiny petals.

TAMA-FUYO, (Jewelled Lotus), Light pink, cup-shaped, nearly full double.

TAMA-MIDORI, (Green Jade), Scarlet, semi-double, brilliant, overlapping petals.

TAMA-SUDARE, (Jewelled Screen), One of the best whites, full double.

TEIKWAN, (Crown of the Emperor), Enormous brilliant red; large double.

TERU-KUNI, Semi-double, light red, yellow center, excellent.

UBATAMA, (Brilliant Blank Kind), Satiny maroon, incurved petals, huge.

UKARE-JISHI, (Jovial Lion), Bright red, floriferous, beautiful semi-double.

YACHIYO-TSUBAKI, (Long Hedge of Camellias), Pink, nearly full double.

YAE-ZAKURA, (Very Double Cherry), Cerise, double large.

YOMO-ZAKURA, (Cherry Blossoms Everywhere), Beautiful pink, semi-double.



Collectors Corner

*Large specimen Tree Peonies all shipped balled and burlapped.
Name the color that you desire and the size that you wish and
we will quote the price shipped to your door.*



THE CHRISTMAS ROSE

The Christmas Rose is an herbaceous Perennial native to the rocky regions of Southern Europe and Western Asia. Its perfection of flower and season of bloom have earned for it such other colorful names as winter rose, snow rose, Christ herb and others; there are many stories which connect the Christmas Rose with the birth of the Christ Child.

This flower strangely loves the bitterness of winter and the flower buds appear late in October. The buds force their way up through the snow and grow to a height of 8 inches; then, while the bud is still quite small, it faces the strongest light and opens, going from cup shape to flat. When fully open the flowers measure $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches to $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches across. They usually remain showy for a good five weeks. The leaves measure 6 to 8 inches and offer good protection for the buds until they bloom.

The Christmas Rose is a profuse bloomer and it is not at all uncommon for a plant which is only five years old to carry 50 or more blooms. Because of its profusion of bloom it is an excellent seasonal plant whose flowers can be combined with other seasonal material for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Bouquets will last two weeks at house temperatures.

Planting Instructions

Hellebores like a deep, rich soil which will retain some moisture. A neutral to moderately alkaline soil has been recommended by most nurserymen; however, they will grow well in slight acidity.

They should be sheltered from severe west or north winds in winter and from hot afternoon sun in summer. It is best to plant them near buildings or at the edge of shrubbery. They are ideal for use in conjunction with Rhododendrons. As their roots go down 15 inches, it is not wise to plant too near large trees where root competition is severe.

In the Spring and Fall, when the plant is most active, it is very greedy for water. At this time it is advisable to give them a feeding of a good fertilizer.

The experienced gardener can successfully transplant the Christmas Rose at any season, but they are more easily shipped by the nursery from late August to November.

Hellebores make excellent house plants. When planted in 6-inch or 8-inch pots, they can be easily forced to bloom indoors during the winter months.

The best time to plant *Helleborus Niger* is in September and October into a well-drained moist soil. It is a sensitive plant to transplant; do not disturb established plants.

We offer only New England-grown plants.

Prices: 3 for \$3.50; 5 for \$5.10; 10 for \$9.65; 25 for \$21.25. All Post Paid.

Helleborus Niger Rubra, New England-grown Christmas Rose, differs a little from the white variety, as it blooms a little later and the foliage and flower stems are erect. The flowers are a striking shade of deep maroon red and more abundant than the white variety, \$2.75 per plant, post paid.

